

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Tadahiro OHMI, et al.

Serial No.: 09/023,416

Filed: February 13, 1998

For: FLUID CONTROL APPARATUS



Group Art Unit: 3753

Examiner: J. Bastianelli

#9 / IDS  
8/11/99  
W. Brewer

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND  
CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

August 2, 1999

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these references is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action or a Notice of Allowance.

The undersigned hereby certifies

X that each item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement, or

\_\_\_ that no item of information contained in this statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no information contained in this statement was

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known to any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement. Two copies of this authorization are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,  
MCLELAND & NAUGHTON



John F. Carney  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
Reg. No. 20,276

Atty. Docket No. 980150  
1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: (202) 659-2930  
Fax: (202) 887-0357  
JFC:ylw  
Enclosures:  
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References ((6)  
Foreign Search Report